Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1802

SECRETROME 12512

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 DECLASS. IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DATE. BY DCM

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

FROM NEWSOM

HOLD FOR SISCO

- 1. ON BASIS MY VISITS NORTH AFRICAN POSTS, I BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTEREST PROVIDE AMBASSADORS WITH MEANS TO KEEP HOST GOVERNMENTS INFORMED ON PROGRESS TOWARD SETTLEMENT AND OUR ROLE IN IT.
- 2. OBVIOUSLY WE CANNOT WIDEN DISSEMINATION OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION RELATING TO INTELLIGENCE, STRATEGY, OR NEGOTIATING TACTICS. SOME POSTS SUCH AS KHARTOUM AND ADDIS (OAU) WHERE GOVERNMENTS' OPINIONS MAY BE IMPORTANT AS NEGOTIATIONS DEVELOP DO NOT HAVE WIDE AND PROMPT ACCESS TO RELATIVELY DETAILED INFORMATION. THEY OFTEN RECEIVE THE FIRST INTERPRETATION OF OUR OWN ACTIONS FROM UNFRIENDLY SOURCES.
- 3. USIA AND WIRELESS FILE OBVIOUSLY USEFUL, BUT WIRELESS FILE FOLLOWS OFTEN BY SOME HOURS RADIO NEWS. TIMELINESS IS VERY IMPORTANT IN GIVING HOST GOVERNMENT IMPRESSION OF COOPERATION AND IN INFLUENCING THEM FIRST TO OUR VIEWPOINT OF EVENTS.
- 4. SPECIFICALLY, I WOULD SUGGEST: (A) THAT, IN DEPARTMENT'S DAILY SITREP WE INDICATE PORTIONS THAT CAN BE SHARED WITH LOCAL SECRET

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GOVERNMENT; (B) THAT WE CABLE TO SELECTED POSTS SIGNIFICANT PORTIONS OF PRESS STATEMENTS: IN AFRICA I HAVE IN MIND ARAB POSTS, ADDIS, LAGOS AND AFRICAN UNSC MEMBERS; (C) THAT WHERE POSSIBLE, WE PROVIDE THESE POSTS WITH ADVANCE INFORMATION ON

DEVELOPMENTS WHICH CAN BE DELIVERED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH RELEASE IN WASHINGTON. YOUR SENDING ME IN ADVANCE TEXT OF SIX-POINT CEASEFIRE PLAN WAS MOST USEFUL WITH ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER; (D) THAT WE TRY TO PROVIDE EACH AMBASSADOR FOR USE WITH HIS FOREIGN MINISTER A WEEKLY REVIEW OF SITUATION INDICATING AREAS OF PROGRESS AND EXISTING PROBLEMS. VOLPE

SECRET

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